

The Destruction from Within (Nehemiah 5:1-19)

Proposition: Every one of us need to get a hold of the same internal problems that Nehemiah faced which threaten to demolish the life walls we are building by noting the three principals outlined in the chapter before us tonight.

- I. The Revelation of a Laborious Load (Vs. 1-5)
 - A. A Loss of Provisions (Vs. 2)
 - B. A Loss of P Property (Vs. 3-4)
 - C. A Loss of Progeny (Vs. 5)
- II. The Rebuke to the Lawless Leaders (Vs. 6-13)
 - A. Lawlessness Pointed Out (Vs. 7-9)
 - B. Lawfulness Prescribed (Vs. 10-11, 12b)
 - C. Lawfulness Prevailed (Vs. 12a, 13)
- III. The Reputation of a Loyal Leader (Vs. 14-19)
 - A. A Reputation of Selflessness (Vs. 14-15, 17-18)
 - B. A Reputation of Steadfastness (Vs. 16)
 - C. A reputation of Supplication (Vs. 19)

The Destructiveness from Within (Neh 5:1-19)

In Victor Hugo's *Ninety three*, his novel about the French Revolutionary war, a ship is caught in a terrible storm. The crew's plight is further compounded by the realization that a cannon is loose below deck. Every pounding wave the storm unleashes turns the unchained cannon into an internal battering ram. Two brave sailors risk their lives to go below and secure the loose cannon. On their descent into the heart of the ship the sailors discuss the fact that the cannon within is more dangerous than the storm without. This seems to be the case w/ Nehemiah and his building project. He has been finding off the enemy without but now a loose cannon within is becoming a problem and may destroy their efforts from the inside out, without the brave Godly leadership of Nehemiah to go down and secure this internal problem. Every

I. The Revelation of a Laborious Load

(Vs 1-5) Now remember every one stopped what they were doing to participate in the building of the wall. That might be

equaled to all us stopping to build. Ch 1 reveals
A. A Loss of Provisions (Vs 2) All the altⁿ of the people was directed to the walls and away from the crops. Also an influx of workless from surrounding areas cause a mini famine in Jerusalem. Kind of like what we are experiencing here with the gas situation. There was a shortage all over town. This led to another problem.

B. A Loss of Property (Vs 3-4) Because of this famine the families began to go out and borrow money from other Jews to buy just even the necessity of life. Not only that but the taxes that were owed to Artaxerxes were being borrowed from lenders. There was a tax problem. April 15th had day all around the link, shot ^{Tilley} ^{5 min}.

C. A Loss of Progeny (Vs 5) This led to an even further problem. When they could not pay their loans, the lender would come in take their lands and then their children and took them into bondage & slavery. If that were true today I know some parents who would not pay their bills for that reason alone. This had ^{work stopped} ^{was revealed} ^{again}.

II. The Rebuke to the Lawless Lenders (6-13)
Nehemiah was lived he was not. Have you ever been angry when you discover something was going on right under you

- 1) ...internal problem. Every one of us need to get a hold of the same internal problems that Nehemiah faced which threaten to demolish the life walls we are building by noting the three principals outlined in the chapter before us tonight.

(1) ...internal interest on a loan to a Jew. You can lend them the money but you're not allowed to take the rest from a Jewish brother if you are a Jew. And fourthly, it is wrong to enslave a fellow Jew. It's just out wrong! Nehemiah said they out on

(2) ...internal sin, it is not dealt with it will destroy the growth that is his best experience

1) ...internal problem. Every one of us need to get a hold of the same internal problems that Nehemiah faced which threaten to demolish the life walls we are building by noting the three principles outlined in the chapter before us tonight.

1) ...demand interest on a loan to a Jew. You can lend them the money but you're not allowed to take interest from a Jewish brother if you are a Jew. And fourthly: it is wrong to enslave a fellow Jew. It's flat out wrong! Lawlessness. Called them out on it.

2) ...internal sin, if it is not dealt with it will destroy the growth that is has been experienced.

nose that had no business growing.

A. Lawlessness Painted Out ⁽²⁻⁹⁾ He was not so upset with the people as he was the nobles and rulers. Not the worst brethren 3 times in 2 verses. The reason being is that

the laws specified the rules and regulations for lending of money (Ex 22, Deut 23, ^{Lev 25})

1. Can lend money to a gentile + charge interest. 2. Can lend money to a Jew ^{but} #3 it is wrong to demand interest ⁽¹⁾

B. Lawfulness Prescribed (10-11, 12b) Nehemiah is a good preacher. Not only does he tell them where their wrong but he tells them how to get right #1) ^{Out} Leave off steep it. If there is sin in our life leave it off steep it. #2) Correct it. Restore.

Make it right horizontally. #3) ^{3b} Commit it make it right vertically. If there is ³interim sin

C. Lawfulness Prevailed - VS 12 & 13. They did. This rebuke from Nehemiah was received and obeyed. They quit the cords they committed. That shaking of the lap is a sign that you keep your oaths lest God sends judgment the problem was dealt with publicly and precisely. When sin was dealt with a new vigor was seen in the people ⁽¹⁴⁻¹⁵⁾

III. The Reputation of a Loyal Leader

The shining light in this whole scene is the man, the leader Nehemiah. God allows him to stand out as a shining

example of what we all are to strive for.

A. Reputation of Selflessness - Vs 14-15+17-18

Basically what this is saying is that as a governor, Nehemiah had the right to take certain amount from the people for to sustain himself. Such as food and wine & money. But he refuses and paid for them himself. Do you realize that our gov provides, gas & cars, and meals at taxpayer expense.

B. A Reputation of Steadfastness - Vs 6.

This was a determined steady fast man. He himself would not let this internal sin hold up the vision that God had planted in his heart! He and his servants were on the wall. Every resources

that he commanded was applied to the rebuilding of the wall would to God were

C. A Reputation of Supplication - Vs 19

Although you might see Nehemiah as a tower of strength and steadfastness, yet time and time again we find Nehemiah's utter dependence on God expressed in prayer. Clark comments by saying Nehemiah's not offering his works for sin but asking that the goodness & mercy shown to

IV. Closing - Is there a loose canon within that is rearing havoc on your project. Go down internally and deal w/it. Bring it to light. Confront the sin

1) ...at taxpayer expense. What Nehemiah did in his day would be like a Senator of our day saying, "No I'll pay for my own lunch." Or a representative saying, "I'll drive my own car. I'll buy my own gas. People are really having a hard time these days." Nehemiah was a man that had a one of my favorite preachers said "some scruples" and ethical or moral principal which he followed which is the fear of God!

2) Clark: Nehemiah wishes for no reward from man; and he only asks mercy at the hand of his God for what his providence enabled him to do; and which, according to the good hand of his God upon him, he had done faithfully.

3) ...shown to this people be imparted to him. As the poet said "Teach me to feel another's woe, To hide the fault I see: The mercy I to others show, That mercy show to me!"